FREE – TAKE ONE

The Romulus News

FEBRUARY 20, 2004 – MARCH 4, 2004 "the little paper" VOLUME 17 NUMBER 15

Buckley Honored with Scholar/Athlete Award

Ronald Buckley II

The Romulus High School Athletic Fund recently received a $250 Scholar/Athlete Award in recognition of "Class of 2003" member Ronald Buckley II. The state-level award is the first of its type ever given to a Romulus High School student.

WXYZ-TV/Channel 7 and McDonald's Restaurants honored Buckley last spring for his superior academic and athletic achievements.

Academically, Buckley distinguished himself by making the Principal's Honor Roll (GPA of 3.5 or above) during each of his eight semesters at RHS. His success earned him a Kiwanis Academic Honors Award, an RHS Departmental Award in Spanish, and scholarships from the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) and the Romulus Boosters Club.

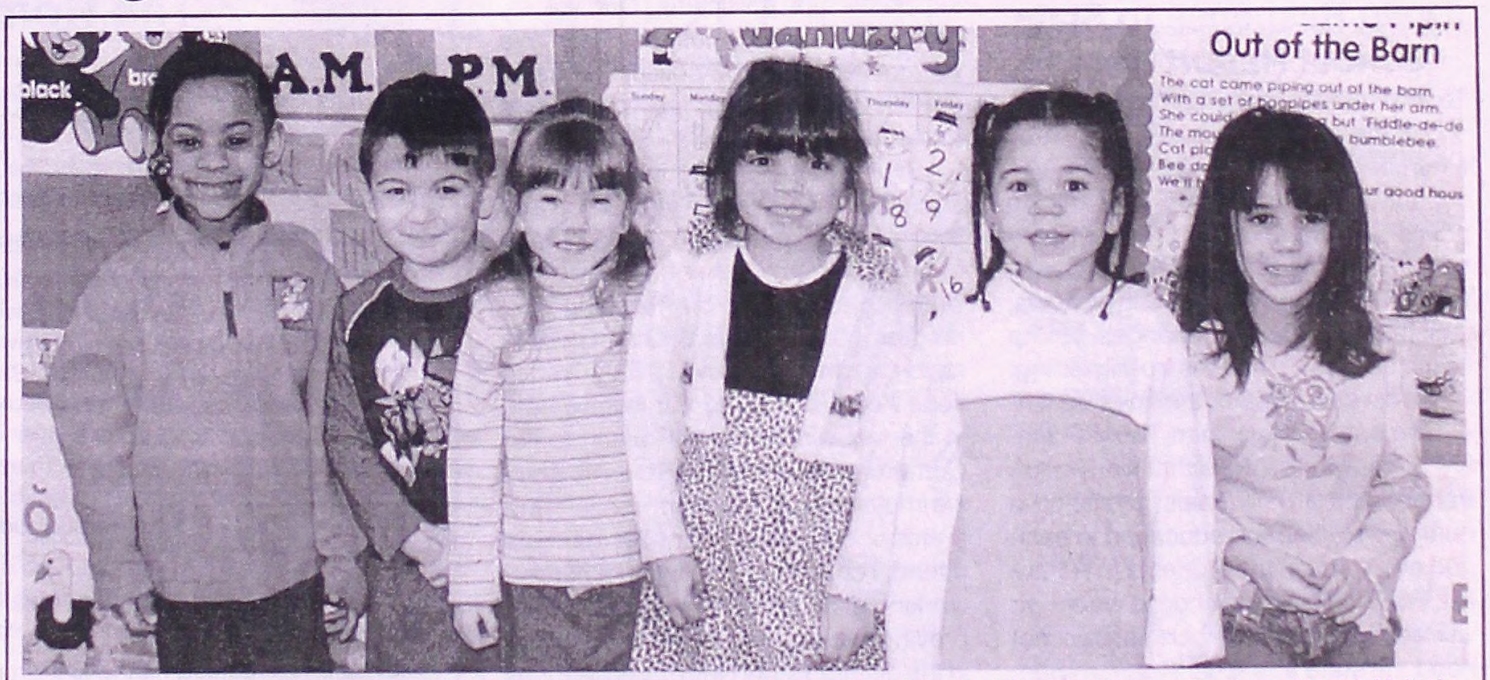
Buckley was also among four students chosen to represent Romulus High School in the Blue Cross & Blue Shield Parade Honor Corps, which marched in the 2002 America's Thanksgiving Parade in downtown Detroit.

Buckley's all-around athletic prowess – first displayed during his involvement in Romulus Little League – earned him recognition as a member of the RHS baseball, cross-country, and basketball teams. As a senior, he was honored by area coaches and selected to the All-Mega Red and All-Heritage Newspapers basketball teams.

Currently, Buckley is enrolled at Michigan State University, where he has concluded a successful first semester in his studies.

Especially proud of him are his parents, Ronald and Cheryle Buckley of Romulus. Cheryle is the vice-president of the Romulus Board of Education. ❑

Program Rounds Up Next Fall's Kindergartners



Students from the Michigan School Readiness program – including (from left) Kayla Kemp, Zachary Ward, Kristin Davis, Ashley McGlynn, Cleopatra Henderson, and Jade Velez – are among many four-year-olds looking forward to attending the Romulus Community Schools kindergarten program this fall. The district will again be offering both all-day/every-day and half-day/every-day kindergarten classes.

The Romulus Community Schools has announced that it will once again offer all-day/every-day kindergarten classes for the 2004–2005 school year. This popular program, which features one all-day/every-day class at each of the district's six elementary schools, is available to residents on a first-come/first-served basis.

Parents of children who will be five years old by December 1, 2004, will have an opportunity to register for either the all-day or half-day kindergarten program at the district's annual Kindergarten Roundup, to be held at all six elementaries (Barth, Cory, Halecreek, Merriman, Romulus, and Wick) on Thursday, February 26, from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Highlights of the event will include a chance to observe the district's new Reading First phonics-based instruction program in action.

District spokesperson Dick Kruse is asking residents to notify possible candidates about the upcoming Kindergarten Roundup.

For more information, please see the advertisement on page 4 or contact the elementary school in your neighborhood attendance area. ❑

Timely Tidbits ...

Juanita's Hosts St. Aloysius Fund-raiser

If you haven't already sampled the homemade tamales, burritos, tacos, and salsa at Juanita's, here's the perfect excuse to do so.

On Monday, March 1, the new Mexican restaurant, located at 36726 Goddard Road in downtown Romulus, is hosting a benefit for St. Aloysius Catholic School's upcoming science trip to Chicago.

Whether you plan to dine in or carry out, just mention that you are there to support St. Aloysius, and the restaurant will automatically donate 20% of your bill to the school's field trip.

It's a deliciously painless way to benefit a worthy cause.

For more information, contact St. Aloysius School: 734-941-3340.

Share Coffee, Ideas at "Live with Lambert"

Meet and talk with Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert at his next "Live with Lambert" coffee session, to be held at the Coleman Center (35351 Beverly Road) on Thursday, February 26, from 5 to 7 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome.

Hopgood to Host Coffee Talk Program

State Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood (D–Taylor) invites his Taylor and Romulus constituents to attend his next Coffee Talk program, to be held at the Downriver Council for the Arts (located at 20904 Northline in Taylor) on Monday, February 23, from 4 to 6 p.m. There is no charge to take part in this event.

Basham to Host Senior Center Coffee

State Senator Raymond E. Basham invites Romulus senior citizens to attend an "Issues and Answers" program to be held at the Romulus Senior Center (located at 36515 Bibbins in downtown Romulus) on Monday, March 22, at 11 a.m. Light refreshments will be served. ❑

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity.

Names will be withheld by request only in exceptional cases where, in our opinion, there is a legitimate reason to do so.

The Romulus News reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity.

Opinions expressed in the "Letters to the Editor" column are not necessarily shared by the staff of "the little paper."

Citizen Thanks Romulus Police for Hard Work

To the Editor:

On behalf of my entire family, I would like to thank the Romulus Police Department and "Smokey the Dog" for all the hard work they did on the morning of September 17, 2003, to investigate the home invasion and armed robbery on Wick Road. Their efforts resulted in the quick capture of all the suspects, who are being sentenced this month.

Again, special thanks to all involved.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Lee
Romulus

Open Response to State School Report Cards

To the Romulus community:

In the past few weeks, I have seen a number of memos and letters providing school administrators with "talking points" on how to respond to the newly released Michigan School Report Cards. Everyone is heavily armed with answers, possible solutions, and changes, but the real problem is: no one is truly listening.

I represent 255 of the finest teachers in the state of Michigan. These teachers are the true heroes that work in the trenches on a daily basis, providing a quality, well-planned education to each and every one of the students in Romulus. We don't pick and choose whom we will educate, and we certainly do not need the state and federal government to remind us to "leave no child behind."

Our teaching staff is highly qualified and highly dedicated, continuously learning and improving methods for implementing comprehensive, research-based programs to meet the social, academic, and emotional needs of Romulus children. We don't do this for one day, give a MEAP [Michigan Educational Assessment Program] test, and then judge our students as failures or successes. But this is exactly what the Michigan School Report Cards have done. They have judged us almost entirely on a test given on a single day, and then questioned us as we self-assessed ourselves higher than what our MEAP scores demonstrate.

Our schools and children are more than test scores. We view our buildings as educational centers, not testing sites. We look at the whole child, including the environmental, social, and financial factors that have a tremendous impact on his/her learning; we don't just label each one as proficient or not proficient. We work to continuously improve, not because someone tells us to, but because we do what is best for the students we educate. We are not a business or for-profit agency. There is no bottom line. We can't simply reject the materials we are given. We must embrace and relentlessly work to improve the children we teach, and push them to achieve their fullest potential. We didn't need someone to tell us that; it's part of what we do.

Teachers and public schools are the backbone of our society. We are the ones who teach future doctors, business people, legislators, judges, park rangers, auto workers, and – yes – even presidents. We provide the tools kids need to be productive members of our society. We should not be judged by a single test, labeled by the government, or used as scapegoats to provide "talking points" for politicians. Our voices, united in solidarity, must be heard. We are not pawns in the political process. We are teachers. Our job is to inspire and educate children.

Our schools in Romulus are outstanding. The services we provide and programs we implement can go head-to-head with any school district in the United States. From our Reading First program, to the Boys & Girls Club, to receiving the esteemed NCA Transitions Accreditation, to our involvement in the Learning to Give Project, to the Comprehensive School Reforms grant we implement, to the countless hours of professional development our teachers attend, I challenge you to find a harder-working district that is continuously improving to meet the needs of *all* children in the district. I stand with my colleagues and urge the community not to allow our children to become a mere letter grade or be punished based on one test given on one day. Our teachers are committed to seeing the success of all children. Then again, I didn't need someone to remind me of that.

Sincerely,

Jason Salhaney, president
Romulus Education Association

(This professional opinion was adopted and approved unanimously by the representative council of the REA at its meeting on February 4, 2004.) ❑

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The Romulus News invites individuals and organizations to submit articles that may be of interest to its readers; however, *The Romulus News* is not responsible for the content of such articles, and the opinions and views expressed by the writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or staff. *The Romulus News* reserves the right to edit any article submitted for publication; however, since material submitted for "Letters to the Editor," "Local Commentary," and similar columns may be printed verbatim, misspellings and grammar errors in these columns may be the responsibility of the writer, and not of the composition department of *The Romulus News*. All letters, commentaries, and other columns must be signed, and must include a telephone number so that their authenticity can be verified.

We are sorry, but we cannot guarantee the return of any photograph submitted to us, although every attempt will be made to do so.

The Romulus News reserves the right to run special advertising rates for each area covered by its distribution without effect on normal contractual rates.

The Romulus News will furnish "personal" (nonbusiness) advertisements, free of charge, to Romulus residents on a "space available" basis.

While every effort is made to insure that advertisement copy is error-free, *The Romulus News* is not responsible for problems resulting from typographical errors which may appear in any advertisement, and limits its liability to the advertiser to the cost of the ad.

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"Souper Bowl" Sponsored by St. Aloysius Youth Group

St. Aloysius Youth Group members taking part in Souper Bowl Sunday included: (from left) kneeling – Dean Kovacs and Joe Sanchez; standing – Stacey Prater (assistant youth minister), Holly Inch, Angie Sovinski, Kacie Mennie, Rachel Jasson, Ashley Pawlowski, Jonathan McLachlan, Johanna Sovinski, Karen Ptaszynski, Julie Wadsworth (youth minister), and Rebecca Lewkowicz.

On February 1, members of the St. Aloysius Youth Group in Romulus joined caring people throughout the world in sponsoring a "Souper Bowl Sunday" collection.

"The Souper Bowl of Caring is a grassroots, faith-based crusade against hunger led by young people who collect donations in soup pots on or near Super Bowl Sunday," explained Reverend Dr. Brad Smith, the event's founder and director. "Participating groups then donate their collections directly to their charity of choice, and report their amount to the Souper Bowl of Caring headquarters so that totals can be announced to the media. None of the money is sent to Souper Bowl headquarters."

This year, the St. Aloysius Youth Group chose to benefit the Helping Hand of Romulus.

"This is our third year participating in the Souper Bowl Collection, and we are thrilled with the donations we were able to collect for the Helping Hand," said youth minister Julie Wadsworth. "This year, we did the best ever, more than doubling our goal of $500!"

The group chose to make its donation to Helping Hand because of its long history of charitable work.

"Florence Klein, director of Helping Hand, does so much for our community," explained assistant youth minister Stacey Prater. "It would be a difficult task to seek out someone in our area who has not been affected by her generosity.

"So many people take the simple luxuries of warm clothes, food, and shelter for granted," she continued. "Mrs. Klein and her amazing force of volunteers have made sure that generations of people have had new clothing for their newborns, milk in their fridge, and boots on their children's feet. She is an incredible asset to our community."

Wadsworth noted that the group takes part in other service activities, too.

"Our Youth Group loves helping those in our community," said Wadsworth. "The Souper Bowl fund-raiser is one of the simplest service projects we do. Our members have also given up precious free time to visit shut-ins in our community, adopting a 'grandparent' and helping him or her with yard work.

"However," she added, "it is the simplest acts that make me most proud. When they take it upon themselves to offer their help to a complete stranger, without hesitation, it's awesome. It is then when I know that they truly get 'it.'"

The St. Aloysius Youth Group welcomes area young people (grades eight and up) who want to have fun, socialize, perform community service, and explore/build a relationship with God. For more information, contact Wadsworth by telephone (734-941-3340; weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.) or by e-mail (juliewads@yahoo.com). ❑

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Youth Group Attends Annual Retreat at Spring Hill Camp

St. Aloysius Youth Group members who attended last month's annual retreat at Spring Hill Camp included: (from left) Stacey Prater (assistant youth minister), Rose Shelly, Rochelle Malinowski, Julie Wadsworth (youth minister), Tom Cada, Dean Kovacs, Kyle Sherwood, Courtney Ramsey, Sarah Lane, Kacie Mennie, Ashley Pawlowski, Liz Mongrain, Karen Ptaszynski, and Holly Inch.

During the weekend of January 9–11, 2004, 13 members of the St. Aloysius Youth Group journeyed to Evart, Michigan, for their fifth annual retreat at Spring Hill Camp. The event featured a number of special activities in keeping with its theme of "Anger and Disappointment in Life," including a dynamic presentation by professional speaker Ricky Page.

"Ricky Page was simply amazing," said youth minister Julie Wadsworth. "His magical combination of humor, passion for life, and relationship with God enraptured the students. They simply couldn't get enough of him."

According to Wadsworth, Page has a real gift for communicating with young people.

"He was able to illustrate their anger and disappointments and let them realize that it's okay to be angry, but also give them the ultimate message that life is full of hope and that only *you* can change the direction that your life is going," she explained.

Of course, the retreat also featured several hours of nonstop fun involving activities such as craft projects, tubing (sledding), horseback riding, paintball, foosball, pool, swimming, extreme skateboarding, and climbing The Giant's Ladder – a five-story ladder that requires teamwork and trust to make it to the top.

Although the annual retreat is an enjoyable event for all participants, Wadsworth says that, for some, its significance is much deeper.

"So many of the kids in our group come from broken homes," she began. "Their lives are vastly different than the life I had as a teen. Some of these kids have experienced disappointment, pain, and neglect like no kid should.

"Others," she continued, "are micro-adults – children with immense responsibilities for their age. They manage meals and care for younger siblings, making sure that they get their homework done and have a lunch for school the following day.

"Taking these kids to Spring Hill is a tremendous gift. It is truly breathtaking to watch them transform from a micro-adult back into a child. Every year, I have at least one kid who breaks down and lets it all out. Sometimes, they cry because they're so angry about how the cards have been dealt in their lives. Other times, they are just grateful that someone has taken them away and let them be kids again.

"The kids spend a lot of time sharing in small groups. This is an important part of the weekend because it allows the kids to begin to trust some friends and, as a result, all of the kids feel stronger and rejuvenated when they return from camp.

"The memories of their camp experience are something I can give them that nobody can take away from them," she concluded.

Youth Group members are already making plans for the upcoming months. Activities will include several service projects, a Lock In, Whirly Ball, and the end-of-the-year camping trip at Waterloo Recreation Area.

The St. Aloysius Youth Group welcomes area young people (grades eight and up) who want to have fun, socialize, perform community service, and explore/build a relationship with God and each other. The group of more than 30 teens meets twice a month.

For more information about the St. Aloysius Youth Group, contact Wadsworth by phone (734-941-3340; weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.) or by e-mail (juliewads@yahoo.com). ❑

ATTENTION:
FUTURE KINDERGARTEN PARENTS

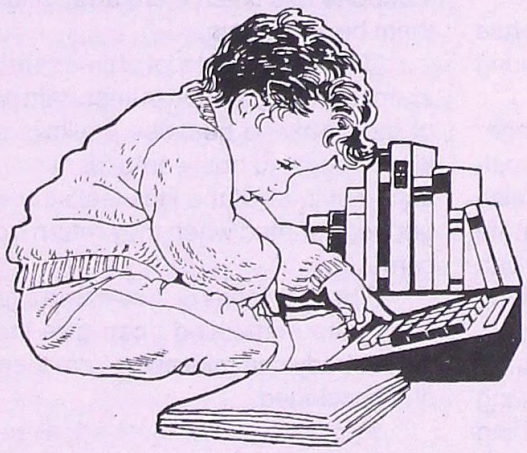
If your child was four years old by December 1, 2003, he/she will be eligible for kindergarten in the fall of 2004. The Romulus school district offers both full-day/every-day and half-day/every-day kindergarten programs.

Please review the options below and fill out the parent advisory form. You can turn in this form during the annual Kindergarten Roundup on Thursday, February 26, or any time thereafter at your area elementary school. Please also be aware that the all-day/every-day program is available on a first-come/first-served basis, and that child-care services are available for the half-day students.

Your area elementary school will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. on Roundup Day to allow you ample time to fill out the necessary documents for kindergarten registration. Later in the spring, each kindergarten family will be receiving special pre-kindergarten learning materials.

We look forward to having your child in our exciting kindergarten program next year. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact your area elementary school any school day between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Telephone numbers for these schools are: Barth (734-532-1250), Cory (532-1300), Halecreek (532-1350), Merriman (532-1400), Romulus (532-1450), and Wick (532-1500).

ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
PARENT REQUEST FORM FOR 2004 KINDERGARTEN



DATE RECEIVED (office use only) _____

I (Parent or Legal Guardian) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

am enrolling my child _____

in the Romulus School District's kindergarten program for the 2004 – 2005 school year. I understand that my child must be 5 years of age by December 1, 2004 in order to be eligible. I would prefer:

_____ A. All-day / every-day kindergarten

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Greca Wins Poster Contest

Congratulations to Wick Elementary School student Kaytlin Greca on winning the Scholastic Poster Contest.

In November, Greca and her fellow students in first-grade teacher Julie Forth's class participated in a "Season's Readings" poster contest sponsored by Scholastic Books. Each child created his/her own poster, and all were submitted for the contest.

Greca's poster was one of 100 winners chosen from a total of more than 8,000 entries from around the country. Her poster, along with the other winners, will be displayed in the Scholastic headquarters building on Broadway in New York City. Greca will also receive a professionally made copy of her poster.

In case you were wondering, Greca's winning poster depicted a fox reading in the snow. The poster's caption read, "Outside reading is fun!" ❑

Kaytlin Greca and her poster.

Seniors Sign Letters of Intent

Romulus High School football stars Kyle Wasson and Jamar Bird recently signed national letters of intent for full collegiate football scholarships. Wasson will attend Eastern Michigan University, while Bird will enroll at Wayne State University.

Wade Cook, head coach of the RHS Eagles football team, was pleased with the signings.

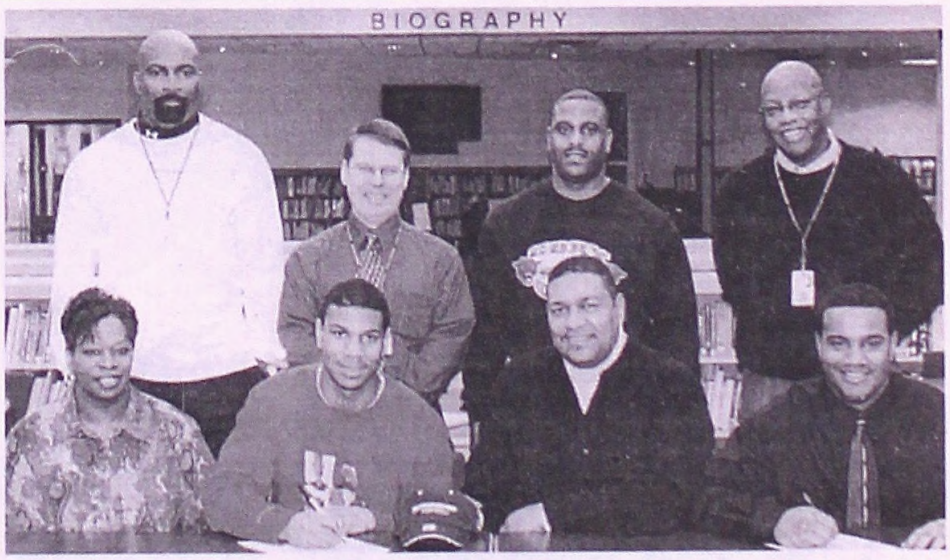
"We play a competitive schedule in the Mega White League, and three of our nonconference games this past year were with Mega Red teams," Cook explained. "This gives the college coaches a chance to see what our players can do against topflight competition, and enhances their opportunities for these college scholarships."

Romulus Community Schools athletic director Jesse Meriweather was equally pleased.

"Both Wasson and Bird have been outstanding representatives of the Romulus athletic program throughout their athletic careers," he stated.

Wasson was selected as an All-Mega White and *Heritage Newspaper* performer. He was also honored as an All-West *Detroit Free Press* selection, and was ranked as the #45 player on the Fab 50 List of Michigan Blue Chip high school football prospects. His other athletic endeavors included membership on the RHS basketball and track teams.

Bird was recognized as an All-Mega White and *Heritage Newspaper* selection. He has also been a member of the RHS basketball team, and plans to play baseball this spring. ❑



Romulus High School football stars Kyle Wasson (front; second from left) and Jamar Bird (front, right) signed national letters of intent to attend Eastern Michigan University and Wayne State University, respectively. Looking on were: (from left) front – Marilyn Wasson and LaJoel Wasson; back – Avery Taylor (assistant football coach, RHS), Don Foley (assistant principal, RHS), Wade Cook (head football coach, RHS), and Jesse Meriweather (athletic director, Romulus Community Schools).

Parents Recognized

Romulus Elementary School Hosts Recognition Dinner for Active Parents

A recent dinner hosted by Romulus Elementary School recognized parents who take an active role in their children's education. Principal Lynne Mossoian was pleased that so many parents were eligible to attend the event.

"To receive an invitation to the dinner, parents had to take part in parent-teacher conferences and our school's open house, as well as sign off on their children's homework and reading logs," Mossoian explained. "Also required was participation in a special school activity, such as Math & Science Night, or volunteer work in a classroom, in the library, or on a parent committee."

All honorees were given award certificates and treated to a delicious pasta dinner.

Guest speakers for the event were Ed Clark, director of human resources for the Romulus Community Schools, and Niema White, Romulus Board of Education trustee.

Entertainment was provided by the Romulus High School Jazz Band under the direction of Henry James.

Principal Mossoian thanked the Home-School Connect Committee, the School Improvement Team, and Parents as Educational Partners for their help in organizing this enjoyable evening.

She also thanked the Hilton Garden Inn of Romulus, which donated the use of its facilities for the dinner, as well as the following additional sponsors: Saturn Food Center, Meijer, Captain Nemo's, the Romulus Marriott, Courtyard Inn, the Ogden Telephone Company (Linda Cokie), and Romulus Flowers & Gifts. ❑

(All photos left to right) Speakers and guests at Romulus Elementary School's recent Parent Recognition Dinner included: (front) Niema White, Ed Clark, and Michelle Wilson; (back) Lynne Mossoian and Al White.

Romulus High School's Jazz Band, directed by Henry James, provided dinner music entertainment.

Other attendees included Sandy Slater, Dan McAnally, Jeff Leucht, Bill Baum, Gail Thompkins, and Roxanne Kucharski . . .

. . . (front) Kevin Damron, Sheila Swistak, Lisa Nastal, and Chastidy Randolph; (back) John and Ursula Wester and Kevin Zadzinski . . .

. . . and (front) Terry and Joseph Kozik; (back) Marsha and Rick Zavitz, Bradley Swistara, Marcene Love, Shawn Dennis, and Rhonda Sparkman.

Parents Recognized

Other dinner attendees included: Shawn Dickson, Laurie Painter, and Kathy Coryea . . .

. . . Danisa Anderson, Delores Dobbs, Seretha Russell, and Edward Anderson . . .

. . . Dontonio and Keesha Thompson and Janet Turner-Harmon . . .

. . . Cynthia Gaudy, Hazel Austin, and Lisa Austin . . .

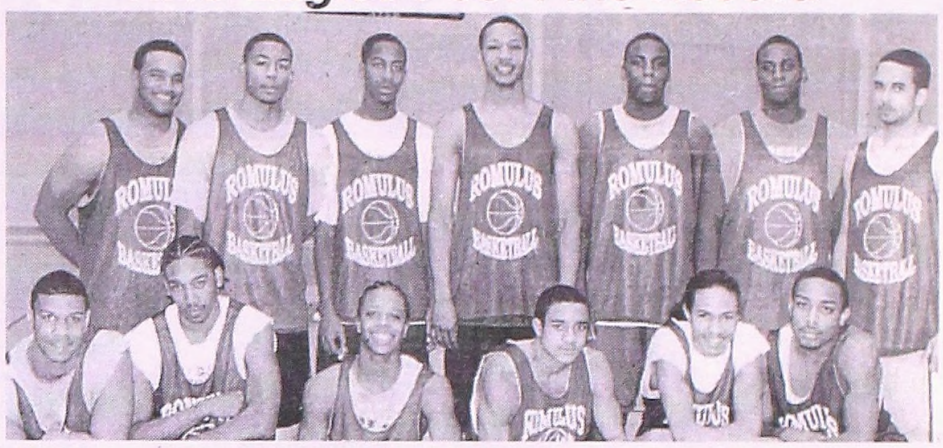
. . . (front) Pia Chasney, Julie Kovar, and Regan Wisely; (back) Mary Beth Coffey . . .

. . . and (front) Jacqueline and Roderick Paterson; (back) Gloria Haywood and Wesley Stephens.

Adult Ed Students Receive Diplomas

Among the 21 Romulus Adult Education students who received high school diplomas in January were: (from left) front – Mitchell Bora, Autumn Jacquay, Stephanie Mathews, Jennifer Young, and Joseph Salazar; back – Nicole Cribbs, John Sanderlin, Lori Goulette, Cliff Copeland, and Marcus Long.

RHS Eagles Post Fine Record



Members of the 10–3 Romulus High School basketball team include: (from left) front – Kyle Wasson, A.J. Hall, Anré Parteé, Josh Brown, Donte Williams, and Jason Gibson; back – Jamar Bird, Demarvelous Carter, Avery Stephenson, Ron Coleman, Marvin Wheeler, Mark Wheeler, and Jerret Smith. (Not pictured: Tylon Pitts.)

ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

36540 Grant Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174

REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 26, 2004

The Regular Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held on Monday, January 26, 2004, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Betty M. Lenossi.

Roll call showed members Lenossi, Cheryle Buckley, April Frayer, Michael Woods, Celeste Roscoe, and Kenneth Mientkiewicz present. Member Niema White was excused. Administrators present were: Joel R. Carr, Superintendent; William A. Routhier, Director of Business and Operations; Thomas Dolan, Director of Curriculum; and Ed Clark, Director of Human Resources.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Lenossi.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

01/04/07 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Roscoe to approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

01/04/08 Moved by Buckley supported by Frayer that the Board of Education approve the Minutes of its Regular Meeting of January 8, 2004, as presented. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Personnel Actions

Mr. Ed Clark, Director of Human Resources, offered the following personnel actions for Board approval.

01/04/09 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Buckley that the Board of Education approve the Separation Agreement and Discharge of all Claims/Retirement and Resignation for Mrs. Lanis Applebee, Payroll/Retirement Coordinator, effective December 31, 2004, as presented by Mr. Ed Clark, Director of Human Resources. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

RETIREMENT: Irene Patterson, Hall Monitor/Security Guard, Middle School, effective January 1, 2004.

01/04/10 Moved by Buckley supported by Woods that the Board of Education accept the retirement of personnel as submitted. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

EMPLOYMENT: Kyle Ririgh, Industrial Arts/Technical Education Teacher, Middle School, effective January 22, 2004.

01/04/11 Moved by Woods supported by Frayer that the Board accept the employment of personnel as submitted. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

FYI: Cathy Laginess, P.M. Kindergarten Aide, Romulus Elementary School, effective January 14, 2004; and Theresa Holton, Bus Aide, Transportation, effective December 4, 2003.

Bills for Payment

01/04/12 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Buckley to approve the Bills for Payment as presented by Mr. William A. Routhier, Director of Business and Operations. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Adult Education Recognition

Superintendent Joel R. Carr distributed Statement of Graduation letters to 21 students who have completed their education at the Adult Education Center. Recipients of these letters were: Mitchell Bora, Toriano Bradley, Cliff Copeland, Nicole Cribbs, Lauren Crowe, Ashley Dixon, Aaron Dzierwa, LeChaunte Ellerson, Jamie Faughn, Philip Generazio, Lori Goulette, Tamara Grant, Joseph Hayes, Autumn Jacquay, Daniel Kudlawiec, Marcus Long, Stephanie Mathews, Joseph Salazar, John Sanderlin, Kenneth Walczak, and Jennifer Young.

Middle School Advisory Program

Mr. Melvin Kimbrough and Ms. Chris Powers provided an overview PowerPoint presentation on the Advisory Program at the Middle School for the 2003–2004 school year.

Approval of District Grants

01/04/13 Moved by Buckley supported by Mientkiewicz that the Board of Education approve the grant awards as provided by Mr. William A. Routhier, Director of Business and Operations. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Romulus Elementary – Cedar Point

01/04/14 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Roscoe that the Board of Education approve Romulus Elementary School's proposed field trip to Cedar Point Amusement Park in Sandusky, Ohio, on Saturday, June 5, 2004, from 7 a.m. until 8:30 p.m., at no cost to the district. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Wick Elementary – Cedar Point

01/04/15 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Roscoe that the Board of Education approve Wick Elementary School's proposed field trip to Cedar Point Amusement Park in Sandusky, Ohio, on Saturday, May 22, 2004, from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m., at no cost to the district. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Communications and Expressions from the Public

There were no communications or expressions from the public.

Items of Interest from the Superintendent

Mr. Joel R. Carr, Superintendent, shared the following items of interest with members of the Board: 1) Michigan State Board of Education Communication; 2) Romulus Elementary Newsletter; 3) Wick Elementary Newsletter; 4) School Community Meeting Minutes; 5) Educator Recognition Event – Tom Dolan; 6) Guide to Advocating for Our Profession – REA; 7) Barth Elementary Newsletter; 8) 2004 CSR Conference Breakout Presenters; 9) Communication – Boys & Girls Clubs; 10) Communication – Danielle Hendricks; 11) Thank You – Molly McGlynn; 12) MCEA Revenue Estimating Conference Report – Middle Cities; 13) Romulus Students Score High with Homework Helper – Article; 14) Thank You – Administrators – Martin Luther King Day; 15) Thank You – Staff – Martin Luther King Day; 16) Romulus High School Newsletter; and 17) Merriman Star.

Questions and/or Concerns of Board Members

Mr. Kenneth Mientkiewicz commented on the new election dates being staggered, and stated that it appears that the new state law will not effect the Romulus school district.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

01/04/16 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Roscoe that the Board convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations. Roll call vote showed: Ayes: White, Mientkiewicz, Roscoe, Buckley, Frayer, Woods, and Lenossi. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board convened in Executive Session at 7:02 p.m.

01/04/17 Moved by Buckley supported by Woods that the Board reconvene in Regular Session. Roll call vote showed: Ayes: White, Mientkiewicz, Roscoe, Buckley, Frayer, Woods, and Lenossi. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board reconvened in Regular Session at 7:26 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

01/04/18 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Roscoe that the meeting be adjourned. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
April Frayer, Secretary
Romulus Board of Education

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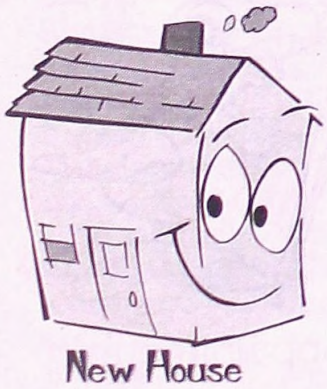

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Wick Students Donate Canned Goods

Collecting 600 cans of food for the Helping Hand of Romulus were Wick Elementary teacher Kathy Hurst's second-graders, including: (from left) front – Jezreel Lewis, Angela Crenshaw, Samantha Moore, and Brenna Wade; back – Dustin Montgomery, Jacquan Jones, Reggie Johnson, and Cody Householder.

District Nurse, Social Worker Secure Free Glasses for Kids

Each year, Merriman Elementary School social worker Renee Kish works with the Romulus Community Schools' district nurse, Carol Wolan, to secure free eyeglasses for students who need them. The glasses are supplied through a cooperative arrangement with LensCrafters, Inc.

After Nolan administers her annual eye test, social worker Kish makes the necessary arrangements with LensCrafters during the firm's Home Town Day.

"We really enjoy this project and the students' looks of gratitude when they try on their glasses for the first time," said Kish. "Their smiles are priceless."

Principal Shellie Moore lauded the program and those who implement it.

"When students receive their new glasses, we can see an improvement in their academic success," she explained. "We are fortunate to have dedicated staff members such as Kish and Wolan, and generous friends like LensCrafters."

Merriman social worker Renee Kish (left) and district nurse Carol Wolan (right) made arrangements with LensCrafters for free eyeglasses for local students: (from left) front – Tyler Atchinson, Brandy Smith, India Graham, Jennifer Lucaj, and Robert Langston; back – Angela Langston, Semaja Ford, Danielle Doyle, Kim Bell, Natasha White, and Chanel Smith.

Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Linda Norman, senior citizens program coordinator for the City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column.

(For more information about events at the Romulus Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins in the downtown area, please call 734-955-4120.)

Free Tax Preparation

From 12:30 to 3 p.m. each Wednesday through April 14, the Romulus Senior Center will be offering free tax preparation services (by appointment only) to low-income Romulus seniors (age 60 and older). The service will also be available at Romulus Tower and Whispering Willows.

A list of materials which must be brought to the appointment will be provided at the time of registration. These materials will include:

- W-2 forms,
- Unemployment compensation statements,
- SSA-1099 interest/dividends statements,
- 1099R pension/annuity statements,
- forms showing income taxes paid,
- last year's tax forms.

For more information, or to make an appointment, call or stop in at the Center.

Celebrate Fat Tuesday!

Indulge yourself on Fat Tuesday (February 24), when the Romulus Senior Center will serve paczkis (pronounced "poonch-keys") from 9 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. or as long as quantities last. Cost is just $2 for 2 paczkis, coffee, and juice.

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

The Romulus Senior Center's next luncheon – to be held on Monday, March 15, at 12 p.m. – will be a St. Patrick's Day celebration. Tickets for the event – which will feature a menu of corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, rolls, beverage, and dessert – are just $5.75 per person. Sign up at the Center.

Northville Downs

The Romulus Senior Social Club is planning a trip to Northville Downs on Friday, March 12. Admission is $20 per person; transportation from the Center and back is free. To find out more about this exciting new club and its activities, call the Senior Center.

Lunch at The Detroiter

Join old and new friends for lunch out at The Detroiter in Woodhaven on Friday, March 19. Cost is just $1 for transportation plus the price of your meal. Sign up at the Center.

Game Day

The Romulus Senior Center's new "Game Day" program is held each Thursday from 1 to 3 p.m. Games include dominoes, rummy, pokeno, and bid whist; other suggestions are also welcome.

Regular Programs

Besides the many special activities offered at the Romulus Senior Center, a number of regularly scheduled free or low-cost programs are also open to local senior citizens.

They include:

- ceramics (Mondays, 12:30 p.m.),
- Club #1 (Tuesdays, 11 a.m.),
- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- Senior Social Club (second Tuesday of each month, 2 p.m.)
- bingo (Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- "fun night" (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- pinochle (Thursdays, 12:30 p.m.), and
- quilting (Thursdays, 7 p.m.).

Ask the Attorney

Local attorney Steve Robinson's monthly "Ask the Attorney" program – a free consultation service for Romulus senior citizens – has been scheduled for 3 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16, at the Center. As always, both walk-ins (36515 Bibbins) and call-ins (734-955-4120) are welcome.

Haircuts

The Senior Center's monthly haircut service has been canceled for February and March, but will resume in April.

Check Your Blood Pressure

Local senior citizens are invited to stop by the Center between 12 and 1 p.m. on Wednesday, March 10, to have their blood pressure checked. There is no charge for this service.

Walk for Your Health

Ride the Senior Center's van to Wayne County Community College's Western Campus each Tuesday at 2 p.m. and/or Thursday at 9 a.m. for safe, indoor walking at your own pace. Sign up at the Center to reserve your seat.

Exercise Classes

The Romulus Senior Center's low-impact exercise classes have been canceled until April, when they will resume at their former regular times. Watch for further updates in future issues.

Snow Removal Service

Wayne County Children & Family Services is offering free snow removal services for senior citizens and handicapped/disabled individuals who reside within the county limits.

For more information, please call 313-842-1540. ❑

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Community Calendar

- **St. Paul Hosts Special Services** – St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at the corner of Craig and Ellis streets in New Boston, invites the public to attend the following special services: ***Ash Wednesday*** (February 25 at 7 p.m.), ***Lenten Midweek*** (Wednesdays, March 3 through March 31, at 7 p.m.), ***Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion*** (April 8 at 7 p.m.), ***Good Friday*** (April 9 at noon and 7 p.m.), ***Easter Sunrise with Holy Communion*** (April 11 at 6:30 a.m.), and ***Easter Morning Festival with Holy Communion*** (April 11 at 10 a.m.).
- **St. Paul Hosts Friday Fish Dinners** – Now through April 2, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is inviting the public to attend its weekly fish dinners each Friday from 5 to 7 p.m. The church is located at the corner of Craig and Ellis streets in New Boston.
- **Financial/Home-buyers Fair** – The Pen Enrichment Center will host its first annual Financial/Home-buyers Fair at Romulus High School (9650 South Wayne Road, north of I-94) on Saturday, February 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. More than 20 banks, government housing agencies, mortgage companies, realtors, developers/builders, home-improvement companies, nonprofit housing groups, etc., will participate. All fair-goers will have the opportunity to attend numerous free workshops and walk away with very important information. Additional highlights include giveaways and free entertainment for children. For more information, call Chris Burnett: 734-930-6763.
- **Writers Group Meets** – The Writers Connection – a group designed to bring writers and aspiring writers together – meets at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road, south of Goddard) from 6 to 8 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month (next meeting: March 3). Membership is free. For more information about the group, which has been meeting for more than a year, call Maryjo at the library: 734-942-7589.
- **Three Men and a Tenor** – Elwell Elementary School will present "Three Men and a Tenor" – a production featuring pop, oldies, Motown, and country music – in the Belleville High School auditorium on Saturday, March 13, at 8 p.m. Tickets ($12 in advance) are available at Main Street Flowers, the Belleville Chamber of Commerce, and Elwell School. Tickets will also be available at the door for $15 each. For more information, call 734-697-8277.
- **Grief Support Group Meets** – Crane Funeral Home (36885 Goddard Road, Romulus) offers free grief support group meetings and individual grief counseling to *all* who are in need. Aftercare meetings are scheduled for the second Sunday of each month (next meeting: March 14) from 2 to 3 p.m. For more information, call 734-941-9200.
- **Teen Pregnancy Prevention Group Meets** – The next meeting of the Romulus Teen Pregnancy Prevention Partnership (RTP3) will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24, in Room 507 at Romulus High School (9650 South Wayne Road). All meetings are open to the public.
- **Preschool Hosts Open House** – Huron Countryside Co-op Nursery – located in St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (19109 Craig Street, New Boston) – will host its annual Open House on Tuesday, March 30, from 12 to 2 p.m. The school, open to children ages 2½ to 5, acquaints children with art, music, exercise, and field trips, and encourages various skills such as verbal expression. For more information about HCCN, stop in during the Open House for crafts, snacks, and fun, or call Julie Martin: 734-654-1356.
- **Women's Chorus Seeks New Members** – County Connection Chorus, a women's *a capella* group affiliated with Sweet Adelines, meets each Tuesday at 7 p.m. at UAW Local #898 (8975 Textile Road, Ypsilanti). Women interested in receiving free vocal lessons are encouraged at attend. The chorus specializes in four-part barbershop harmony with a repertoire that includes Broadway classics, pop, gospel, and barbershop standards. For further information, visit www.sweetadelines.org or call 734-480-8843.
- **Romulus Church of God Announces Service Times** – Romulus Church of God (located at 8770 South Wayne Road) invites the public to attend their weekly services (Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Wednesdays at 7 p.m.) as well as their children's programs: Kids for Christ (Sundays at 10:30 a.m.) and Kids Praise (Saturdays from 12 to 2 p.m.). For information, please call 734-729-7243.

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174–0038; FAX it to us at 734-992-2052; or call 734-941-1907

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Happy Birthday!

Walker-Wafer Celebrates 90th Birthday

On Saturday, February 7, 2004, more than 160 relatives and friends joined Romulus resident Dorothy Catherine Walker-Wafer to help the 90-years-young great-great-grandmother celebrate her birthday.

Among the highlights of the party, which was held at Wayne Tree Manor, were performances by Dorothy's granddaughter, LaTrice R. Wafer, who sang her own rendition of "Amazing Grace"; her minister granddaughter, Sherri M. Wafer-Gladney, who wrote and sang the song "Dorothy"; her nephew, Windall Jackson; and The Hurricane Travelers of Romulus.

Dorothy would like to publicly thank all her well-wishers for their cards and letters, and for making her birthday such a memorable event. Her four daughters (Jeaunine, Curtisene, Winifred, and Levira) and her "one and only" son (James Walker, Sr., of Atlanta, Georgia) would also like to say thank you and God bless you all. ❑

Dorothy Catherine Walker-Wafer

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Obituary

Ricky E. St. Amour

Ricky E. St. Amour of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Saturday, February 7, 2004, at the age of 16. The Ohio native was born on Monday, June 8, 1987.

Among those surviving Ricky are his parents, Leonard E. and Carole E. (Miller) St. Amour; his grandmother, Berniece A. St. Amour; 4 brothers, David C. Miller, Kevin E. Ball, Charlie R. St. Amour, and Joseph P. Graves; and 4 sisters, Anna Mozug St. Amour, Katherine Wallen, Amy D. St. Amour, and Danielle R. St. Amour.

A private family service was held and cremation rites were accorded.

Arrangements were made by Crane Funeral Home (Romulus, MI). ❑

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